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NEWS RELEASE

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Education Department Distributes *Information Works! 2004 – The State Report Card*

Education Commissioner Peter McWalters has announced that the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) has begun distribution of *Information Works! 2004: The State Report Card*.

The first copies of the booklet are being released today to members of the General Assembly by the commissioner and by Rep. Paul W. Crowley and Senator Hanna M. Gallo, who are members of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education.

“As you look through this report, you will see many signs of improvement,” McWalters noted. “Our elementary-school students once again have improved their reading and writing scores, with nearly 2/3rds of all 4th graders achieving proficiency on our difficult state exams. Our high-school students have improved their mathematics scores. Overall, nearly 2/3rds of our public schools met all 21 of their academic targets for school improvement.

“We still have work to do, however,” he continued. “As you look through the list of school-performance classifications, you will see that there are truly two Rhode Islands. About 30 percent of our schools are classified as ‘in need of improvement – insufficient progress.’ Most of these schools are in the core urban districts, our areas of greatest need.”

Information Works! 2004 contains statewide data about the academic achievements of the students in all Rhode Island public schools during the academic year 2002-03. It also includes information from the annual SALT Survey of all students, parents, and teachers in the state. And it includes tables on school spending and tax capacity.

The complete report, as well as all school and district reports, are published on the *Information Works!* Web site, www.infoworks.ride.uri.edu

This marks the seventh year that the RIDE and the National Center on Public Education and Social Policy, at the University of Rhode Island, have worked together to produce *Information Works!*

Copies of the booklet will be distributed during the next week to all schools and districts, public libraries, educational agencies, and news organizations. Additional copies are available from RIDE.

